

Little's service records. After working with members of his family, my office was able to put in a request to the Department of Veterans Affairs to secure the appropriate marker for his grave. Unfortunately, due to the damage from Hurricane Irma, the cemetery was damaged and the installation of his headstone had to be put on hold.

Thanks largely in part to the work of volunteers who cleaned up and led the recovery after the storm, I am pleased to share that First Class John William Little will finally be receiving the recognition he deserves as his family and members of the community come together with the Homestead Air Force Base Honor Guard to place a proper headstone on his grave later today.

Little was part of what we call the Greatest Generation, and the name is rightly deserved. At a time when human dignity and basic freedoms were under attack, he and millions like him put their lives on hold to ensure our way of life would be protected for generations to come. The basic freedoms we value, the way of life we enjoy, and even the continued existence of our government institutions are because of the sacrifices made by men and women like Private First Class Little.

I am proud of my staff's hard work to secure this recognition for one of our fallen heroes and humbled that we were able to play a role in honoring his memory and sacrifice. I am disappointed I won't be there to honor him in person today, but I look forward to visiting his grave to pay my respects soon.

VITA UNITED WAY

Mr. CURBELO of Florida. Mr. Speaker, last year Congress passed historic tax reform repairing our Nation's broken Tax Code. The positive effects of this new law are beginning to be felt across the country as businesses of all sizes reward their workers with bonuses and higher wages, all while hiring more people to fill new positions.

Millions of Americans across the income spectrum will start seeing more money in their paychecks as soon as this month. However, with the growth of wages and bonuses being realized, reprehensible individuals looking to commit fraud and take advantage of countless hardworking Americans as they file their taxes will see this as a prime opportunity to ply unsuspecting victims. Sadly, fraudulent tax preparation is a problem we know all too well in south Florida.

Fortunately, free tax filing assistance is available for those who need it. The IRS offers the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program, known as VITA, to provide free tax preparation services from volunteer tax professionals in local communities.

Mr. Speaker, for low-income families with an annual income of less than \$54,000, the elderly, and those struggling with English, VITA services are an opportunity to make the most of the recent tax relief legislation and ensure they are getting as much in their tax return as possible.

Sixty percent of residents in my district qualify for this assistance in preparing their taxes, which is why I have made fighting to protect and strengthen the VITA program one of my top priorities since being appointed to the Ways and Means Committee last year.

Together with my Democratic colleague Representative DANNY DAVIS, I introduced a bipartisan bill that would permanently authorize the IRS to fund this free tax preparation service. It also ensures that VITA grant recipients, who already have accuracy rates of 94 percent, including tax returns claiming the Earned Income Tax Credit, maintain strong records of accuracy that will save taxpayers money.

My legislation is an important step toward ensuring the IRS is serving taxpayers and not the other way around. I am proud it has strong bipartisan support.

In my district, United Way of Miami-Dade and United Way of Monroe work hard to connect lower-income taxpayers or those with limited English skills with reliable, legitimate tax preparation assistance—entirely for free through the IRS VITA program. I was honored to invite United Way of Miami-Dade to Washington last year to share the work they do to help so many in our community fully utilize this free resource.

Unfortunately, I won't be able to visit United Way in South Dade this afternoon as planned, but I look forward to rescheduling to bring attention to their work soon.

I want to ensure as many constituents as possible are aware these services are available to protect their hard-earned paychecks, especially in a period of historic tax relief, and I encourage anyone looking for more information to reach out to my office for assistance.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois). Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 10 a.m. today.

Accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 19 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1000

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. COLLINS of Georgia) at 10 a.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Heavenly Father, thank You for giving us another day.

We thank You for every day you give us to be here at the seat of participative government. Bless the work of all the men and women who represent the people of the United States. Fill

them with wisdom and good will, that they might better work together for the benefit of our Nation.

Bless all the leaders of all the branches of our government with peace this day. May all be their best to serve the noble ends of government: the welfare of all men and women.

May all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from New York (Mr. ZELDIN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. ZELDIN led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

SUPPORT FOR LIBERTY IN IRAN

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, this year started with thousands of Iranians, including many young people, taking to the streets in opposition to the corrupt regime of the mullahs in Iran.

Iranians face brutality, imprisonment, and execution simply because they want freedom of expression and disagree with the Iranian Government.

Protests in over 100 cities have been silenced by the IRGC thugs as the rogue regime continues its crackdown on human rights.

The government has shut down the internet and social media.

The United States should stand with the Iranian people by seeing to it that the Iranians have access to social media through satellite communication.

If we help the Iranians have freedom of expression through speech and press, the world will know how the illegitimate regime persecutes its own people.

Hopefully, the people will remove this dictatorship and have a government that they, the people, put in power. After all, isn't that what freedom is all about?

And that is just the way it is.

THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT PROJECT

(Mr. ZELDIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ZELDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my constituent, Ms. Tijuana Fulford, founder and executive director of the Butterfly Effect Project in Riverhead.

In 2014, Ms. Fulford set out to establish a free program to provide young girls with the tools they need to achieve self-confident futures in hopes of bringing forth a generation of strong, independent, and knowledgeable women.

This program has grown from 4 to 108 young girls with an ever-growing waitlist. These are girls who are empowered with the resources necessary to secure a prosperous future for themselves and their families.

Through financial, educational, emotional, and career support, the Butterfly Effect Project is building community involvement and curtailing the effects of cultural and mobility limitations.

With locations in Riverhead and Bellport, the Butterfly Effect Project is having such a positive effect on young girls from Riverhead, Flanders, Calverton, Mastic, Shirley, Bellport, Westhampton, Peconic, Patchogue, and West Islip.

The Butterfly Effect Project has provided an invaluable service to our community. I applaud Ms. Fulford for her dedication, and I look forward to witnessing the growth of her organization and the bright future of so many of the young women it supports.

OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE

(Mr. HUFFMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, President Trump's mantra is "no collusion." He says this constantly because he

wants people to think collusion—a hard thing to prove—is the only question in the Russia investigation. It is not.

Even putting aside the mounting evidence that Trump did collude with Russia, there is an equally serious question about obstruction of justice, and, for that, the evidence is overwhelming.

The greatest hits of Trump obstruction include:

Requesting an improper loyalty pledge from FBI Director Comey;

Telling Director Comey to drop the Flynn investigation;

Asking the DNI and the CIA Directors to lean on Comey to drop the Flynn investigation;

Firing Comey when he continued the investigation;

Admitting on national TV that the firing was because of the Russia investigation;

Admitting, essentially, the same thing to top Russian officials in a White House meeting;

Drafting a deliberately misleading statement for his son about the infamous Trump Tower meeting;

Attempting to fire Special Counsel Mueller;

And, most recently, this ham-handed choreography with Chairman NUNES to undermine all of the pending investigations—an attempt to set up the argument that we should drop the Russia investigations and, instead, investigate the investigators.

That is just the "Greatest Hits of Obstruction," volume I. There is a lot more to come, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

SOUP-ER HERO SOUP DRIVE

(Mr. FITZPATRICK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize some real-life super heroes from my district in Bucks County, Pennsylvania.

Students from Brookwood, Keystone, and Mill Creek Elementary Schools in the Bristol Township School District collected thousands of pounds of canned soup, dressed as "soup-er heroes," and delivered it to the Emergency Relief Association Food Pantry in Levittown. Mill Creek Elementary School collected 1,581 pounds of soup, Brookwood Elementary School collected 1,365 pounds, and Keystone Elementary School collected 1,016 pounds of cans to help those in need.

Mr. Speaker, I am so inspired by these outstanding young members of our community, who at a young age are already working hard to help people around them in need and make their community a stronger and a better place. I know we can all learn something from those boys and girls.

I encourage every school in Bucks and Montgomery County to follow the lead of Brookwood, Keystone, and Mill Creek Elementary Schools and find new and fun ways to help those in need.

DEVASTATION OF HOUSTON SCHOOLS HIT BY HURRICANE HARVEY

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, as school children rise across America to go to a place of work for them, but a place of joy, of learning, I rise today to reenforce the importance of education in the State of Texas.

The Texas education administrator, along with the Governor of the State of Texas, will be receiving a letter from me reaffirming the plea of local officials—both governmental and educational officials—to give Texas school children, because of the devastation of Hurricane Harvey, a waiver for 2 years for them to be able to improve their scores and to keep the schools open that the parents and the community want to have open.

Many of my school districts—seven of which I represent—have faced the tragedy of Hurricane Harvey: the displacement or relocation of their children and the devastation of their schools, including the Houston Independent School District. It has historic schools.

So my plea is that this is, likewise, a Federal issue. I was a strong supporter of the SUCCESS Act where we look at different elements, other than testing. Let's look at the holistic aspect of the school children of Houston. Let's give them a waiver. Let's understand Hurricane Harvey. Let's fix the schools and keep them open.

That is my fight, and that is my commitment.

CONGRATULATING PYEONGCHANG WINTER OLYMPIC GAMES ATHLETES

(Mr. STEWART asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STEWART. Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate all 243 United States athletes that have secured qualification in the upcoming Pyeongchang Winter Olympic Games. I am proud to say that 15 of these Olympians come from my home State of Utah. Through their talent, their hard work, and their dedication, I am confident that they are going to represent Utah and, in fact, the entire United States very well.

These individuals come from all walks of life. Some are in the middle of their professional careers, some are students, many of them are parents. Together, these individuals will be able to showcase their immense strength